Tuesday January 10, 2006

OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 36

Governor Togiola Tulafono Delivers State of the Territory Address

Governor Togiola Tulafono, on Monday, January 9, 2006, delivered the State of the Territory Address before a joint session of the 29th Legislature, 3rd Session, at the Fono Guest Fale. Following is the official and complete text of the State of the Territory Address:

State of the Economy

The Territory's Gross Domestic Product is up 3% per the latest 2003 numbers, which means that American Samoa is continuing to grow economically.

The cost of living continues to rise due to fuel prices and the war in Iraq. However, the offsets of this continuous rise for our government workers, are:

- 5% across the board increment funded through fiscal tightening at the end of 2004; and
- Removal of increment freeze at the upper end of the ASG payscale, which was passed

Overall growth in employment for all sectors of the economy resulted with an overall job increase of new jobs in 2005. Canneries and Private sector employment bowed, owing greatly to the rise in fuel prices and uncertainty of Section 936.

There were a total of 3,157 business applications processed in 2005. This was an increase of 4.5% over total applications in 2004. Over the past ten years, there was a 50% increase overall in business applications, which signals that private enterprises, apart from government and the canneries, are continuing to experience growth.

The total cannery production was down for 2005 resulting from economic pressures outside of American Samoa. However, there still remains the excellent potential for local fishing industry, for example, the development of alias which are bringing in local fish, our local fish markets and the potential for marketing 'bycatch,' those fish that are brought into the Territory by the fishing fleet, which the canneries are unable to use.

Our Section 936 alternative package is still being developed. The package proposal is currently being circulated among the canneries, after being presented to certain leaders and staff of the U.S. Congress. The proposal encompasses those portions of 936, which are most beneficial to our canneries, but allows for wider application of the exemption to other businesses that are interested locating in the Territory – not just the canneries. We will continue to work to promote this package in the coming year.

We hope to bring our plight to the attention of those who may help our cause. I have sent an open invitation to the leaders and staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources committee, among others, inviting them to American Samoa to learn first hand the challenges that we face here, and how huge a role Section 936 plays in the development of our economy.

Also of interest to these leaders are the many other challenges that plague us as a Territory which include local education, healthcare and healthcare financing, economic development and critical infrastructure needs.

Competition for goods and services in 2005 was healthy. Procurement awarded approximately \$5 million for goods and services. Over \$14 million spent by ASG in 2005, went to over 2,000 local vendors. 75% of the fruit and vegetables that were produced by our local farmers were purchased by ASG.

Our local development bank actually came in under budget this year, maintaining a liquidity rate (ability to take care of liabilities as they come current) of 99%.DBAS made a total of 41 loans for the year 2004, at a total value of 1.4 million dollars. In 2005, DBAS made a total of 157 loans valued at \$6.27 million dollars.

Our Home Loan Program, through the help of HUD, has funded a total of 51 projects for the year 2005. Of this amount, 12 were for the construction of new homes. 12 new homeowners, the recipient loans for houses valued at \$35,000-\$40,000 now have a fixed asset that will benefit them and their children for years to come.

Our investment in technology is beginning to net some potential returns. With the advent of the e-Commerce Development Corporation, a Pacific Information and Communications Technology Academy was established in the past year. Taking an average of one worker per government agency, the PICTA academy is training our workers in the basic information/communications technology that will translate directly into strengthening local capacity to develop these technologies into working tools for the betterment of ASG's service delivery to the public.

Instructors from Manu'a are able to take advantage of a collaborative effort between eCDC, ASCC and the University of Hawaii Telecommunications Information Policy Group (TIPG) that offers an Instructional Technologies course, which was begun for the 2004-2005 year. This is the first distance-learning course of its kind utilizing our latest technology.

The course provides training in the use of instructional technologies, and it is a critical component of the American Samoa Educational Technology Plan in promoting accessibility and accountability. This is a prime example of yet another successful collaboration through key partnerships over the past year.

Our senior citizens will also be targeted for computer training in the coming year, which will increase the skills possessed by our elderly in the community and build upon our commitment to better quality of life for the Territory's aging, but 'young at heart,' community.

E-Commerce infrastructure is in place, and our workers are being trained to guide us through the twenty-first century using technology widely available but not widely understood. Our workforce is moving definitely moving forward and upward as a result of this academy and our e-commerce efforts. Discussions are taking place with potential investors in e-commerce applications within our Territory, and this indicates a brighter future for us.

As regards or workforce, ASG enrolled 289 OJT participants and 250 summer youth participants, respectively, in 2005, giving our youth their first experience in competing in the workplace. Also in 2005, ASG actively promoted job placements with Norwegian Cruise Line, a reputable cruise line operator from the State of Hawaii helping our residents attain opportunities, which transcend our borders. Career Vision workshops for the youth were conducted in which our youth were able to learn more about jobs that interest them and the prospects for those jobs in the future.

ASG will continue to work to ensure that appropriate jobs are available for our youth here at home, as well as our returning youth, and that the current workforce are constantly improving their job skills to remain competitive in the workplace.

State of Finance Management

ASG continues to experience a positive cash flow and as a result, continues to meet its current liabilities. In short, the state of our financial management is strong.

Our financial management system is helping ASG to abide by the spirit of our fiscal reform plan by increasing accountability and transparency and avoiding those missteps that engendered the ire of our U.S. counterparts in years past.

For the first time since 1991, American Samoa will be current with its single audit compliance by the end of January 2006. This will mark the completion of one of the most formidable tasks that we encountered this past decade. Audits for prior years noted over 120 deficiencies in our accounting and finance practices. Today, that number is down to 22 – and we're not done. We're still working hard on these issues. And I assure you that ASG will not rest until there are zero deficiencies left to haunt ASG and our finances.

In the year 2005, our finance management system was touted by the USDOE as 'the model' for other territories to emulate. One of the 'high risk' conditions that were set by USDOE in prior years was 50% withholding of all grant funds. Today, thanks to ASG's tight fiscal management, there is no withholding on our grant funds for DOE programs. We are leading the way in fiscal management and will continue to do so into the future, not for the purpose of satisfying DOI or USDOE, but to promote and set standards for ASG's own best practices.

Also as a result of our austere financial practices, CIP funding for 2007 will be up \$1 million dollars based on our competitive application for CIP funding to the DOI. According to ASG's latest score, upon which, DOI CIP funding is based, American Samoa increased its CIP funding by \$1 million. Our 2006 award was \$9.5 million. 2007 CIP award is now set at \$10.5 million. The biggest scoring improvement was for enhancing our management of finances. ASG's position is improving, and I am committed to making sure that this trend continues.

State of Education

Family and Community involvement are increasing, as evidenced by our Talofa TV Program, Read Aloud Program on KSBS-FM, and courses offered at the ASCC for Child Care Providers.

The Internet is arguably the single most important educational development tool that is available to our kids. The Internet provides the conduit for our children to explore information at an accelerated pace, all at their fingertips. Our Erate program, which is in its 9th year of funding continues to give our children access to this invaluable tool for learning and exploration. 64% of our children, who ordinarily do not have access to a computer at home, are surfing the internet at school, researching and learning about new worlds and ideas that just would not be accessible given our Territory's geographic isolation.

SAT 10 Test scores for our children over the past year are encouraging. (Continued on page 2)

STATE OF THE TERRITORY ADDRESS (from page 1)

They reveal that our children are improving each year from grade level to grade level in each subject area. This test will inform us as to whether or not our goals, standards and benchmarks are achieved. This will ensure that as we progress our efforts to educate our children, no child will be left behind.

Teacher scholarships for the past year were given a significant boost to the tune of \$1 million, as we created new scholarships that were funded through ASG's fiscal tightening over Fiscal Year 2004. These scholarships were made available to teachers in order to better prepare them to educate our greatest resource – our children. These moneys are an investment in our future. A better-educated and trained teacher is a better teacher, period. Besides these scholarships, \$463,000 in scholarship funding was also made available pursuant through the same avenue in order to encourage our students to attain advanced degrees.

ASG is currently working on proposals for specialized education, which will promote the advancement of the Territory's finest minds. It is our duty to develop our gifted students and to ensure their academic success by all means. ASG will also promote trade training with an emphasis on the developing private sector and targeted training in specialized expertise. The encouragement of our professional sectors will be a priority.

State of Healthcare

In the year 2005, ASMCA received \$1 million in flood insurance moneys, which was crucial to fund the purchase of their much-needed autoclave for burning biohazardous waste produced by the hospital. Our hospital CIPs included safety upgrades and housing funded at approximately \$2 million.

The ASMCA Board continues to take those actions that are necessary in order to ensure that healthcare is available into the future. The current rates will not be curtailed, however, a sliding scale payment plan will be instituted in order to provide relief for our low-income families.

With the availability of funds through the credit facility, which I signed into law last year, the Board maintains that we can count on seeing and experiencing better quality healthcare at our hospital. I am committed to seeing this come to fruition for our people and for all of our residents.

Our Coverage for All in American Samoa Program introduced its field survey tool to certain households in 2005. This effort was largely through the collaboration of the Governor's Office, the Department of Commerce and its Statistics Division and faculty and students of our own ASCC. This is another excellent example of interagency cooperation and key partnerships. Valuable data is being collected which will comprise the foundation for American Samoa's healthcare financing options. This program will change the face of healthcare provision in the Territory. Fono health committees, stakeholders and providers have been consulted, and the CAAS Awareness conference will happen on the 12th of this month.

State of Security

Our Attorney General's Office and DPS have taken a pro-prosecution stance on smaller crimes such as public peace disturbances, which has resulted in a tremendous rise in criminal actions and resultant fines and fees for such violations of local law. No longer are such crimes treated as a 'slap on the wrist' offense. There are now actual legal consequences to these violations, as there should be.

The Territory will host the Regional Summit for Violence against women in September 2006, thus maintaining our commitment to stamp out violence against the mothers, sisters and daughters of our Territory, and our DPS substation for the Manu'a islands is 50% complete, with dedication set for this April.

Our Immigration Board is recently renewed and they are busily conducting necessary hearings for foreign nationals residing in the Territory. Gone are the days when a foreign national was able to enter the Territory and remain for several years without even having appeared before the Board. Each application, permit, visa gets the direct and appropriate attention of the Board. This has created a backlog in the Board's work, however, this initial period will result in a much smoother, more responsible and responsive system in the years to come.

Disaster preparedness was put to the test when Hurricanes Olaf hit our islands in February to March of 2005. TEMCO, Homeland Security, DPS and our various first responder agencies worked tirelessly to get the necessary response materials and supplies to the people of Manu'a in the aftermath of these devastating hurricanes, with much success. FEMA praised our local agencies noting that this public assistance program was one of the best and smoothest operations ever for them in recent years all over the U.S. Diligent and professional work for ASG should be a reward, in and of itself.

Full-scale exercises were coordinated by TOHS, with an eye toward measuring our capacity to handle non-natural disasters. With each passing day, American Samoa comes closer to its targeted goals of preparedness as we steel ourselves against the threats that present themselves in this new century. We continue to work to become the center of hazard communications, training and plan implementation in our region. This will help American Samoa stay ahead of developments as the Pacific plays a bigger role on the world stage.

Hazard mitigation efforts netted American Samoa over \$4 million dollars in funds to perform necessary work on the Faga'alu and Pago streams which are still underway, and the Fagatogo stream is set to begin its environmental assessment by a leading U.S. design firm in the next two weeks.

State of Infrastructure:

Communications

There has been healthy competition between ASTCA and Blue Sky that has resulted in some of the lowest rates in the region for local wireless and long distance communications and internet.

American Samoa officially entered the North American Numbering Plan in April of 2005, resulting in the lowest long distance rates that American Samoa has ever seen – please see your long distance phone bills. "Equal Access" was implemented in 2005, giving residents for the first time, a choice in their long distance carriers

ASTCA has pulled approximately 20 miles of copper and fiber in 2005, and has added new cell sites for wireless communication. Additionally, our Internet backbone has doubled and results are more diverse internet routes for the Territory.

ASTCA continues to pay for its own operations and other obligations of the government even with reductions to their rates – a true privatization success story.

ASPA

Dealing with the problems that plagued the organization over the past year, as well as soaring fuel costs around the globe, the ASPA board, management and the organization as a whole were able to make significant progress toward providing efficient and reliable electrical service for the Territory.

2005 saw a devastation of Manu'a's infrastructure due to Hurricane Olaf. Through ASPA's efforts, the Manu'a infrastructure recovery is complete, along with the completion of the Ofu-Toaga Underground Project, which entailed burying conduit for power and water, thus hardening Manu'a's fragile infrastructure against future hurricanes or events affecting above ground essential service.

The cost of ASPA's power production decreased by 8% and transmission and distribution was decreased by 7% as a direct result of bringing services inhouse instead of outsourcing. At year's end, 9 local ASPA linemen received U.S. Department of Labor certification as 'linemen,' further adding to our local capacity and keeping in line with our efforts at promoting the development of the ASG workforce. (continued on page 3)

STATE OF THE TERRITORY ADDRESS (from page 2)

This past year highlighted American Samoa's vulnerability associated with electric production and our dependence on petroleum for our power needs. Therefore, I have directed the Territorial Energy Office and ASPA to work closely to determine the feasibility of alternative energy production in the Territory, such as wind and ocean thermal as viable sources for power in the Territory.

Although ASPA had to borrow to meet its disaster recovery efforts, they are now in a better position to meet their obligations and the future looks much brighter for our hard working authority.

Public Works

Completed projects for DPW, totaling \$2.4 million: Utulei Village Road – Cement road from DOE to Samoan Affairs; and from rear of the EOB to Election Office was completed. Vaitogi Village Road – Providing auxiliary road to the village of Vaitogi has been completed. Repair, rehabilitation of Futiga–Leone road; Faga'alu-LBJ road; Vatia road are all completed for 2005.

Projects that are being worked on in 2006, totaling \$15.25 million: Fagatogo village storm drain; Construction of Ta'u substation and dispensary are on the horizon for 2006, as well as new Emergency Operations Center in Tafuna. Matu'u to Nu'uli road. Drainage of Route 01 (Fagatogo to Pago Pago) road. Malaeimi to Faleniu rehabilitation. Rehabilitation and remediation of water catchments for village roads are being worked on, and we will be consulting with villages on the priority of these projects. Major rehabilitation and rebuilding of our Manu'a schools. All three primary schools as well as the high school, through FEMA public assistance. New school buildings for Leone High, multi-purpose cafeteria and band room, as well as 18 classroom building for Tafuna High; New maintenance warehouse for DOE: ECEs that have been completed: Pava'ia'i and Leone. ECEs that have begun – Fitiuta, Fagaitua, Masefau, Poloa all slated for completion in 2006.

Port

This past year, Port Administration, through the use of federal and local dollars, progressed over \$24 million in projects heading into 2006. These key projects included: Airport rescue firefighting facility; Hot fire training facility; Runway rehabilitation. New airport administration building.

Faleasao Harbor dredging that helped to facilitate surface transportation for the MV Sili, which has begun running trade routes among our island neighbors, most notably, Tokelau. These trade routes will aid ASG to provide surface transportation to the Manu'a islands, increase our export trade within the region AND assist in providing for maintenance and operation costs for the Sili, itself.

While collections are slightly decreased over the prior year, we will continue to work hard to ensure that these amounts are brought back into line through fiscal and procedural tightening at our ports.

State of the Environment

Water Pollution has been curbed with effective ASEPA programs such as community oil collection points and the interagency efforts of the PNRS program. Waters that were once too metal laden, are now within USEPA compliance. American Samoa netted a 300 ton soil surplus in 2005 as compared to soil loss in recent years, through local and federal efforts. Coral reefs are recovering in American Samoa due to ASG efforts and community based fisheries management programs that have created Marine Protected Areas in villages surrounding the Territory.

State of Tourism

Our most recent calendar "Taumafataga Fa'a Samoa", the result of a tourism promotion, is being distributed throughout the community, and will be available for tourists as a visual display of our local foods that are part and parcel of our culture in American Samoa. The calendar turned out to be a successful treat for the eyes, as well as a tempting invitation for the senses to those who view it. We are on the verge of privatized tourism that is sector-based and community responsive.

Airlines have increased from a single charter with one plane to a three-planed charter, a scheduled carrier and a government owned plane. We are far from the time in the not so distant past when we relied on Western Samoa to provide air transportation to the Manu'a islands. Accommodations at local hotels are set to increase with the soon-to-be-operating Sadies-by-the-Sea, adding 42 standard rooms to our local accommodations capacity.

Eco-tourism is being developed through partnerships and efforts of local business, the Tourism Office and interested organizations such as the Pago Pago Visitors Association

Cruise ships brought in 6,500 tourists to our shores in 2005, which in turn, increased short-term seasonal employment and opportunities for sales of whole, locally produced art and handicrafts.

Our stray dog program has witnessed an overall decrease of the stray dog population. Again, through partnerships between your government, and organizations such as the American Samoa Humane Society, efforts are currently underway to spay and neuter dogs in the Territory. These efforts are being helped along with generous donations from local organizations such as the Rotary Club.

The First Lady's Beautify Your Environment campaign continues to engage in, promote and incentivize beautification efforts all over the Territory, with prizes awarded for the most beautiful East, Central, West and Manu'a districts for 2005. Again, through partnerships between your government and locally owned businesses such as McDonald's, Ace American Industries, GHC Reid, Alamai Center and so many other generous businesses and individuals, we are making our environment.

Other events promoted: Samoa Bowl III; 2008 Pacific Arts Festival; DOI Business Opportunities Mission; Eco-Tourism Conference.

Noteworthy Mentions

One of the goals of this Administration is promoting government efficiency by eliminating the duplication of functions between government agencies and departments. This specific undertaking was helped along by a recommendation of the Fono regarding certain agencies in the Executive. In August of last year, I convened a Task Force consisting of 10 members and headed by the Lt. Governor for the purpose of reviewing the current government structure and organization. Their review is a detailed analysis of each government department, agency and office, with an eye towards the elimination of confusion over agency jurisdiction, authority and function. The Task Force has been meeting for the past five months and I am happy to announce that they are very close to completing their work. I expect that recommendations will be forthcoming from the Task Force before the end of the month. Upon meeting my approval, this Administration will work swiftly to carry out and implement the recommendations made by the Task Force. In the near future, the roles and responsibilities of your government will be clearly defined, thereby resulting in greater government efficiency and less confusion, and ultimately leading to more effective and efficient use of government resources.

Another initiative of this administration is the promotion of ethical behavior at all levels of the Executive hierarchy. Plans are now being implemented for bringing in credentialed professionals in order to discuss, train and reinforce basic ethical decorum beginning at the top. In a 'train the trainer' fashion, the education and training will be passed from the management level to line positions in order to make unethical behavior and conduct inexcusable within the executive branch during this administration. We will lead this development by example.

One of my first actions as Governor was an Executive tax credit for fuel sold to the fishing fleet, which was adopted by law in the 29th Legislature. The fishing fleet, which once netted American Samoa millions in commerce is slowly, but surely, taking advantage of our low priced fuel, resulting in more commerce for the Territory. Fleets not only refuel locally, they also restock supplies and other necessities for their ships. Our tax credit is partially responsible for the 8-10 million gallons sold in 2005 over and above normal sales. The credit ensures that American Samoa's fuel is cheapest in the region, and we will continue to work with the local Coast Guard officials to ensure that the safety of the vessels calling into port to partake of our cheap fuel does not compromise our port facilities or security.

2005 was a successful year for American Samoa. I am committed to continuing the trend, and to make certain that 2006 is just as successful and more. We will keep moving forward for our Territory, our islands and our people.

TAPUITEA Issue No. 36

Wastewater Facilities Plan for Leloaloa, Aua and Onesosopo Villages

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) has recently completed a study for wastewater management for Pago Pago harbor villages that are not served by the municipal sewer system. The final report, entitled <u>Small</u> <u>Community Wastewater Facilities Plan for Villages of Leloaloa, Aua, and</u> Onesosopo, will be submitted by early February. The report presents engineering and environmental considerations for the selection of the best alternative for wastewater management for these villages. The study was completed by an offisland engineering and planning consultant, under the direction of Peter Peshut, ASEPA Technical Programs Manager. The purpose of this project was to provide ASEPA and the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) with reliable data for selection of the best wastewater management option for these villages. Seven alternatives were evaluated; several options looked at using the existing Utulei Wastewater Treatment Plant, other options considered construction of new treatment facilities within the villages. Representative Paopaoailua J. Fiaui (District 11), Senator Liufau T. Sonoma (District 11), and Ponausuia (Aua Village Council), met with ASEPA Director Fanuatele Dr. Toafa Vaiaga'e and ASPA officials to discuss the findings of the report. A consensus was reached among the parties, and the selected alternative is to connect the three villages to the existing Utulei wastewater treatment plant, via a new pipeline that will be constructed in the existing Highway 001 corridor. Upgrades to the Utulei treatment plant will also be included. The final Facilities Plan includes preliminary design of the selected alternative, which will expedite the process of final design and construction.

Facilities planning is the important first step for development of appropriate and cost-effective infrastructure. Good planning must always precede design and construction if funding for infrastructure is to be used efficiently and wisely. Another major benefit from good planning is that potential federal funding sources, such as Department of the Interior, Rural Utility Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, are able to seek maximum appropriations because the proposed work is supported by thorough technical review. ASPA is now in the process of moving forward with design for this work, and is preparing applications for construction funding. ASPA is assisted in these efforts by the US EPA Pacific Islands Office, Region IX, San Francisco. Wastewater infrastructure for Leloaloa, Aua, and Onesosopo will complete the sewerage system for villages that surround Pago Pago Harbor. There will be a significant improvement in water quality along village beaches once the system is completed, and there will be improved Harbor water quality overall.

The completion of this Facilities Plan and the prioritization of wastewater management for Leloaloa, Aua, and Onesosopo, follow several years of water quality investigations and other environmental program efforts by ASEPA. Village leaders and residents continue to work with ASEPA to address illegal piggeries and remove other waste sources from along streams. Representative Paopaoailua and Senator Liufau have been active supporters of environmental efforts in the villages, and they continue to encourage and motivate the Village Council and residents to work towards improved sanitary conditions. There is noticeable improvement in village sanitation as a result of these efforts. Much work has been done, but the work must continue. Individual action on the part of residents is just as important as government efforts for improvements in village quality of life.

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ASG RADIO PROGRAM

with: Governor Togiola Tulafono
Saturdays @ 7a.m. on: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7
Call 699-8123 or 699-8124

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorenson

Historian - Office of the Governor

On January 6, 1903, the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila received its first foreign guest, Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Solf, the Imperial Governor of German Samoa, who arrived on board SS *Ventura* at 6:10 a.m. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Reisner of the German Army, and by his secretary, Mr. von Vignaud. Governor Solf and his party dined aboard the Naval Station Ship, USS *Wheeling*, with the Naval Station Commandant, Commander Edmund Beardsley Underwood. After supper, Dr. Solf sailed to Apia aboard *Wheeling* to assume his gubernatorial duties.

On January 7, 1907, American Samoa's Governor, Commander Charles Brainard Taylor Moore, issued his "Regulation No. 1-1907: Cricket Games," which stated that "The game of cricket and other games, when played between persons of one village against persons of another village, or between the people of one country against any other country, are prohibited, unless the written permission of the governor be first obtained, enabling such game to be played." This regulation stipulated that violators could be fined up to \$15, or serve a prison term, "with or without hard labor," not to exceed 60 days.

On January 8, 1915, three people were killed in a Manu'a hurricane. A boy was drowned, a woman was killed by a falling tree, and a man was decapitated by a flying piece of roofing iron.

On January 8, 1948, Captain Edward Stanley Kellogg, 15th naval governor of American Samoa (September 4, 1923-March 17, 1925), "Died at the age of 77...at the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland, after a long illness."

On January 9, 1941, a board of four U.S. Naval officers, chaired by Lieutenant Commander N.W. Sears, prepared a joint plan for the defense of Samoa, based on recommendations made by Marine Corps Captain Alfred R. Pefley in 1940. The defenses included four 6-inch guns, six 3-inch guns and fourteen 50-caliber antiaircraft guns. Provisions were also made for patrol vessels, coastal lookouts and mine warfare.

NOTE to fans of Hist. Notes: We promise to publish more of the Historical Notes for this period, Jan. 4^{th} thru 10^{th} , in the next issue of Tapuitea, as this issue was dedicated to publishing the State of the Territory Address in its entirety.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT OR AMEND RULES

Pursuant to American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA) 4.1001 et. Seq., the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) intends to adopt or amend its Whistleblower Policy. Interested members of the public may review these documents and/or present their written comments on the same at the DBAS CEO's Office at the DBAS Building at Pago Pago, American Samoa from January 10, 2006. DBAS is normally open for business Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary Malauulu at telephone number (684)633-4031.